

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, which amends claims 1, 6-8, 18-20, 23-25, 28-29, and 32-35, claims 1-35 will be pending.

Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman-Amuah (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,867, hereinafter (Bowman)); and claims 2 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman in view of Wetzel (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,990, hereinafter "Wetzel").

#### Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Interview conducted on April 5, 2005. The cited references and claims were discussed in the Interview.

#### Section 103 rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman. Applicants submit that Bowman does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1, as amended.

Self discovery not disclosed or suggested

Bowman does not disclose or suggest self discovering physical or logical network inventories that change over time in real-time. The rejection cites col. 71, line 57 – col. 72, line 7 and col 71, lines 22-31 as reciting self discovery of network elements in Bowman. Applicants submit that Bowman is not directed towards self-discovery of physical and logical network inventories in real-time. Bowman discusses a network planning and development process. *See Bowman*, col. 70, lines 16-18. The cited passages of Bowman recite a process that can be followed to plan a network. Also, Col. 56, lines 3-10 of Bowman may disclose real-time threshold analysis but this passage is directed towards monitoring alarms for the network. However, receiving alarms do not disclose or suggest determining inventories. Thus, Bowman does not disclose or suggest self discovery in real-time of physical or logical network inventories that change over time.

Also, Bowman does not disclose or suggest synchronizing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory in the network element inventory to determine any differences between the real-time updated physical network inventory and the real-time updated logical network inventory with the planned network inventory. The rejection states that Bowman discloses synchronizing at col. 71, lines 1-56. Applicants submit the cited passage of Bowman recites a process that can be followed to plan a network. Nowhere is it disclosed or suggested that differences are determined in Bowman. Further, nowhere is it disclosed or suggested that real-time updated information of the physical and logical network inventory are used in determining the differences.

Additionally, Bowman does not disclose or suggest creating a view including the above determined differences that include a real-time updated physical network inventory and logical network inventory. Bowman may provide a presentation manager but nowhere does Bowman disclose or suggest that the view includes the differences described above.

The real-time updating of the physical and logical network inventories and synchronization provides many advantages. An accurate view is created by using real-time updating and synchronization. Thus, groups, such as marketing, sales, and engineering can access different views that are accurate when other groups cause changes to the physical or logical network inventory. Bowman is not directed towards providing these advantages. Rather, Bowman is directed towards planning a network and not the operation and management of a network.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom.

Applicants submit that claims 8-35 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections for claims 8-35.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

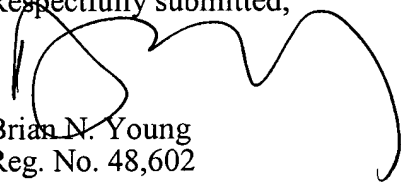
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Amdt. dated April 20, 2005  
Amendment with RCE

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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